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EXAMINER

HANNE, SARA M

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2179

DATE MAILED: 06/02/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/086,757	Applicant(s) LAHTI ET AL.	
	Examiner Sara M Hanne	Art Unit 2179	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 February 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-48 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-48 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>2/18/05</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to the amendment received on 2/18/05. Claims 1-48 are pending in the application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1-5, 9-12, 15-21, 25-26, 28, 30-36, 40-43 and 46-48 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Biffar, US Patent 6397212.

As in Claims 1, 17, 32 and 48, Biffar teaches a system, method, software and means for automatically updating graphical user interface (GUI) elements at a client system according to an updated state of a configuration, the system comprising one or more software components at the client system operable to display a GUI element at the client system in connection with a configuration workflow (4100 Description), the GUI element being associated with a configuration choice available for a configuration element of a configuration model stored at a server system (4200 Characteristics specified with database Figure 6) create and maintain at the client system a connector linking a property of the configuration element of the configuration model to the GUI

Art Unit: 2179

element (Column 6, lines 15-24) maintain at the client system configuration data representing a current state of a configuration in relation to the configuration model ("Fig. 7A is the starting selection ... and shows a preset display of the currently most popular car model in its most popular configuration", Column 11, lines 23-25 and figure 8 with corresponding text) in response to a configuration choice selection at the GUI element during the configuration workflow, receive data from the server system representing an update to the current state of the configuration with respect to the property of the configuration element (Column 10, line 1 et seq.) and use the connector linking the property of the configuration element to the GUI element to cause the other GUI elements to be automatically updated to reflect the updated state of the configuration with respect to the property of the configuration element (Column 12, line 35 et seq.) in order to associate available configuration choices for the other GUI elements according to configuration choice selection (Col. 10, line 1 et seq.).

As in Claims 2, 18 and 33, Biffar teaches the connector is created automatically at the client system in response to the GUI element being generated for display at the client system (Column 10, line 1 et seq.).

As in Claims 3, 19 and 34, Biffar teaches the connector allows the other GUI elements to be automatically updated to reflect the updated state of the configuration (Claim 2 rejection) without requiring data associated with any properties of any configuration elements unaffected by the configuration choice selection to be communicated from the server system to the client system and without requiring any GUI elements unaffected by the update to be updated (inherent).

As in Claims 4, 20, and 35, Biffar teaches the configuration model comprises configuration elements, each configuration element involving one or more configuration choices each having one or more configuration element properties(4300 Information) and the software components are further operable to create and maintain at the client system a separate connector for each configuration element property that is to be linked to one of a plurality of GUI elements (the color characteristic linked to the image of 4100, price characteristic linked to text of 4100), such that each configuration element property may be linked to a GUI element using separate connectors and each GUI element may be linked configuration element properties using separate connectors.

As in Claims 5, 21 and 36, Biffar teaches and code used to create the connector at the client system comprises a format string as a parameter, the format string allowing for Hypertext Markup Language (HTML) formatting of the GUI element linked to the connector according to the format string (Column 11, line 3 et seq.).

As in Claims 9, 25 and 40, Biffar teaches a first frame associated with a web page and generated at the server system for communication to the client system upon initiation of the configuration workflow(Figure 2), the first frame operable to maintain the connector at the client system, store the data representing the update to maintain configuration data representing the updated current state of the configuration at the client system (4300 Information Fig. 3), according to the data representing the update, determine the property of the configuration element, determine the connector for the property (Column 6, lines 15-24) and using the connector for the property, update the other GUI elements linked to the property (4100 Description), and a second frame

associated with the web page and generated at the server system for communication to the client system in association with the first frame, the second frame comprising one of the other GUI elements linked to the property(Col. 10, line 1 et seq.).

As in Claims 11 and 42, Biffar teaches the first and second frames (4000) associated with a web page ("The item searched for can reside on different data bases, and/or Web sites.", Column 5, lines 49 et seq.).

As in Claim 15, 30 and 46, Biffar teaches the configuration model is a product configuration model, the configuration workflow is workflow to configure a product, and the configuration choice is associated with one or more available selections for configuring a corresponding portion of the product (Col. 4. line 34 et seq.).

As in Claim 16, 31 and 47, Biffar teaches wherein the GUI element for the configuration choice is associated with a dynamic Hypertext Markup Language (Col. 11, line 6 et seq.) layer and comprises a label (4100 Description).

As in Claims 12, 28 and 43, Biffar teaches the first frame comprises functions each operable when executed at the client system in response to a call to create a connector for a corresponding type of GUI element (changing functions in the first frame changes the type of GUI element displayed) and the second frame comprises code associated with the GUI element for the configuration choice, the code being generated automatically at runtime at the client system in response to generation of the GUI element (when the web page is opened up) and operable to automatically call the function in the first frame corresponding to the type of the GUI element to create a connector for the GUI element (See Example in Col. 11-13).

As in Claims 10, 26 and 41 Biffar teaches a third frame associated with the web page and generated at the server system for communication to the client system in association with the first frame (Type) and second frame (Color), when executed at the client system the third frame (Col. 10, line 1 et seq.) operable to receive from the second frame data representing a configuration choice selection associated with the another GUI element, the configuration choice selection of the second frame affecting the property of the associated configuration element (Col. 10, line 1 et seq), post the data received from the second frame as a Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP) request to the server system (normal webpage/server interaction), receive an HTTP response from the server system comprising data reflecting the update to a current state of a configuration resulting from the configuration choice selection of the second frame (options are narrowed as a suggestion is made), the current state reflecting the selection, and communicate the data received from the server system to the second frame to initiate updating of the other GUI elements for the third frame (Figures 7-8 and corresponding text).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Art Unit: 2179

5. Claims 6-7, 13, 22-23, 29, 37-38, and 44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Biffar, US Patent 6397212., and further in view of Ahluwalia, US Patent 6728685.

As in Claims 6-7, 13, 22-23, 29, 37-38, and 44, Biffar teaches a system, method, software and means for automatically updating graphical user interface (GUI) elements at a client system according to an updated state of a configuration, the system comprising one or more software components at the client system operable to display a GUI element at the client system in connection with a configuration workflow, the GUI element being associated with a configuration choice involving a configuration element of a configuration model stored at a server system create and maintain at the client system a connector linking a property of the configuration element of the configuration model to the GUI element maintain at the client system configuration data representing a current state of a configuration in relation to the configuration model in response to the configuration choice selection during the configuration workflow, receive data from the server system representing an update to the current state of the configuration with respect to the property of the configuration element and use the connector linking the property of the configuration element to the GUI element to cause the GUI element to be automatically updated to reflect the updated state of the configuration with respect to the property of the configuration element (See Claim 1 rejection *supra*) and code used to create the connector at the client system allowing the updated state of the configuration to be determined in response to user input associated with the GUI element linked to the connector and if appropriate according to the updated state of the

Art Unit: 2179

configuration. While Biffar teaches the aforementioned system, they fail to show the format string comprising JavaScript code as recited in the claims. In the same field of the invention, Ahluwalia teaches an update interface for product customization similar to that of Biffar. In addition, Ahluwalia further teaches the format string comprising JavaScript code (Column 7, lines 42-50 and Ref. 1801). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Biffar and Ahluwalia before him at the time the invention was made, to modify the automatic GUI updating system through connectors set to link configuration elements to GUI elements taught by Biffar to include the JavaScript of Ahluwalia, in order to obtain JavaScript capabilities for creating the connections. One would have been motivated to make such a combination because a web-customizable automatic interface would have been obtained, as taught by Ahluwalia.

As in Claims 8, 24 and 39, Biffar teaches software components operable to create and maintain at the client system a connector linking specified Hypertext Markup Language (HTML) layer content to a function (Column 5, line 19 et seq.), the connector operable to be used to call the function in response to the configuration choice selection associated with the HTML content to indicate the configuration choice selection, a connector linking a specified HTML layer property to the function, the connector operable to be used to call the function in response to the configuration choice selection associated with the HTML layer to indicate the configuration choice selection and a connector linking the function to a callback operable to communicate the indicated the configuration choice selection to the server system and, in response, receive the data

Art Unit: 2179

representing the update from the server system (Example of Figure 7). While Biffar teaches the aforementioned system, they fail to show the JavaScript code as recited in the claims. In the same field of the invention, Ahluwalia teaches an update interface for product customization similar to that of Biffar. In addition, Ahluwalia further teaches the format string comprising JavaScript code (Column 7, lines 42-50 and Ref. 1801). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Biffar and Ahluwalia before him at the time the invention was made, to modify the automatic GUI updating system through connectors set to link configuration elements to GUI elements taught by Biffar to include the JavaScript of Ahluwalia, in order to obtain JavaScript capabilities for creating the connections. One would have been motivated to make such a combination because a web-customizable automatic interface would have been obtained, as taught by Ahluwalia.

6. Claims 14, 27, 45 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Biffar, US Patent 6397212.

Biffar discloses the first frame operating as an API and the second frame comprising a viewable configuration dialog frame associated with the web page (See Claim 1 rejection *supra*) generated at the server for communication to the client in association with the first frame in response to the initiating of the configuration work flow (opening the page). Biffar fails to teach the first frame to be non-viewable as recited in the claims. Within the field of the invention, it would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to make the first frame non-viewable. One would have been motivated to

make such a combination because a way to view information without allowing the user to edit it would have been obtained.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 2/18/05 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

In response to the arguments that Biffar fails to teach automatically updating GUI elements in order to provide available configuration choices in response to a configuration choice selection, the examiner disagrees. Col. 10, line 1 begins discussion on how previous inputs create different options for the user to choose in other GUI elements.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

The prior art made of record on form PTO-892 and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Applicant is required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111(c) to consider these references fully when responding to this action. The documents cited therein teach similar e-commerce display interfaces with interactive frames.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sara M Hanne whose telephone number is (571) 272-4135. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7:30am-4:00pm, off on alternating Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Heather R Herndon can be reached on (571) 272-4136. The fax phone

Art Unit: 2179

number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

smh


BA HUYNH
PRIMARY EXAMINER